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Agenda item 50

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 20 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

During the just-concluded general debate of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, delegates from a very few countries have once again raised the so-called issue of "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations". Upon instruction from my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. The one-China principle has already been widely recognized by the international community. The great majority of States Members of the United Nations have diplomatic relations with China and they have all recognized that there is only one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. In 1971, the twenty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by an overwhelming majority, resolution 2758 (XXVI), which has resolved once and for all, in political, legal and procedural terms, the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. As of the day when the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations were restored, its Government has rightfully represented all Chinese, including our compatriots in Taiwan, in the United Nations and all its subsidiary bodies. This has best safeguarded the principle of universality of the United Nations. There is simply no such issue as the so-called "Taiwan's representation at the United Nations". By openly raising the so-called issue of "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations" on the platform of the General Assembly, these few countries are attempting to create in the United Nations a situation of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". Such an act constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations as well as of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It is a gross interference in China's internal affairs. The Chinese Government strongly condemns this and expresses its utmost indignation.

2. The General Committees of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since 1993 have all flatly refused to include in the agenda of the General Assembly the so-called issue of "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations". This fully demonstrates the determination of the vast number of Member States to



safeguard the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law as well as their strong will to uphold resolution 2758 (XXVI). We thank the great majority of Member States for abiding by the one-China principle and opposing Taiwan's participation in international organizations that can only be composed of sovereign States. At the same time, we are confident that any separatist act to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan", which runs counter to the tide of history, and any attempt to support such acts, will be doomed to failure.

3. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal matter of China, which brooks no foreign interference. To resolve this question and realize the reunification of the motherland is a lofty historic mission for the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan. The basic policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" proposed by the Chinese Government not only takes into account the paramount interest of national development and the long-term interests of the entire Chinese population but also fully accommodates and helps protect the immediate interests of our compatriots in Taiwan and Taiwan's need for development. The successful development of Hong Kong and Macao following their respective reunifications with the motherland have served as telling examples of the great vitality of the policy of "one country, two systems". We are confident that a proper resolution will eventually be found to the question of Taiwan in accordance with this policy. And we have every reason to believe that in the just cause of safeguarding State sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Chinese Government and people will be able to continue to count on the Governments and peoples of the vast number of States Members of the United Nations for their understanding and support.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda item 50.

(Signed) **Wang Yingfan**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
and Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China to the United Nations